









## POETRY.

THE EARLY DEAD.—BY WILLIAM B. TAPPAN.

"Think of youth  
Smitten amidst its playthings."

Think, mother! of the babe that clung  
In weakness closely to thy love;  
Round whom thy arms were warmly flung,  
While blessings for it rose above,  
With every panting of thy breast,  
With every kiss, a whispered prayer  
That on it happy dew might rest,  
That this sweet bud might aye be blest,  
And Heaven's shielding favor share—  
Where is that infant?—*Where?*

Think, mother! of thy prattling girl,  
Whose sunny eyes have gladdened thee,  
Whose birdlike voice, 'mid care's wild whirl,  
Hath charmed thee with its melody;  
Whose airy step within thy hall  
Was signal still of pleasure there;  
Bright creature! who embodied all  
That we perfection fondly call,  
Or dream the pure blest spirits are—  
Where is that daughter!—*Where?*

Think, mother! of thy noble boy,  
Who stood before thee in the pride  
Of strength and beauty; no alloy  
Thy fond maternal hopes to chide,  
As his clear eye and open brow  
Thou soughtest and within his hair  
Of careless curls, thy fingers thou  
Delightedly wast wont to place,  
And mark the father in his face,  
And see thy image mimicked there—  
Where is that boy?—*O where?*

That infant is a seraph now!  
That daughter kneels before the throne!  
That beauteous boy, with harp and crown,  
Exulting, spreads his silver wings.  
Thou almost hear'st those perfect strings  
Whose music is to thee unknown—  
Sound where the glad immortals bow,  
Where children cast their honors down;  
Where elders and apostles meet  
At Jesus' feet.

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